

Wakayama City, Kansai, Japan

An underrated Kansai gem south of Osaka, Wakayama rewards cruise passengers with a hilltop castle, world-class tonkotsu-soy ramen, spiritual temple walks, and the story of Tama — the cat who saved a railway.

 Docked (pier)  Typical call: 8-10 hrs  Japanese Yen (JPY)  Japanese — limited English  Shuttle bus to city center

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships dock at Wakayama Port (West Pier/Nishi-hama) — no tendering

Best For: Castles, Japanese cuisine, spiritual sites, quirky experiences

Walk to center: Not walkable — shuttle or taxi required; Wakayamako Station 15 min walk

Don't Miss: Wakayama Castle, Wakayama Ramen, Kuroshio Market tuna show

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  ~¥2,000–2,500 ·  **Rideshare**  Uber Taxi

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Wakayama Castle** — A striking white tenshu atop Mt. for a fee) and rewards you...
- **Wakayama Ramen & Kuroshio Market** — Wakayama's famous Chuki-soba is a rich tonkotsu-soy broth served with Hayazushi (pressed mackerel sushi) on the side...
- **Tama the Cat Stationmaster & Kishigawa Line** — The Wakayama Electric Railway appointed a calico cat as stationmaster to save a bankrupt rural line — it worked.
- **Kimiidera Temple** — Founded in 770 AD, this temple requires climbing 231 stone steps (mini-cable car available)
- **Wakaura Bay & Awashima Shrine** — Scenic bay area with the colorful lacquered Kishu Toshogu Shrine (108 steep steps) and the eerie Awashima Shrine...

BEST WALKS

- **Castle Park Loop** ~1.5 km | Easy to moderate | 45-60 min — From the shuttle drop-off near Wakayama Castle, walk up through the castle park, cross the Ohashi Roka bridge (shoes off!), visit the...
- **City Center Stroll** ~2 km | Easy | 30-45 min — From JR Wakayama Station or Wakayamashi Station, walk toward the castle area, stopping at local ramen shops and browsing covered...

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is king. Many ramen shops, temples, and local taxis are cash-only. Stock up at a 7-Eleven or Japan Post ATM — both accept foreign cards reliably.
- Take the ship shuttle. The pier is in an industrial zone with nothing nearby. Cruise line shuttles to JR Wakayama Station or the castle save time and hassle.
- Eat the ramen. Wakayama Chuki-soba (tonkotsu-soy broth) is a local legend. Ide Shoten is the most famous — expect a queue. Grab the mackerel Hayazushi on the table too.